

WELCOMING PARISH CHOIR AND
CHORISTERS OF ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Parish Choir and Choristers of St. Thomas Episcopal Church to our nation's capital.

The choir, along with their Rector, The Rev. Darren R. S. Elin, and music director, Dr. Carlton Monroe, was one of a few Episcopal choirs invited to sing at the National Cathedral this summer, a very distinct honor.

I congratulate these men, women, and children on this special occasion, and I commend them for their service to their community and to God. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated people in the Second Congressional District of Ohio.

Again, congratulations to the St. Thomas Church Choir on this well-deserved honor. I wish them the best of luck this weekend and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAL
BODZIANOWSKI

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michal Bodzianowski of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Michal, a sixth grader at STEM High and Academy, is an honorable winner of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program.

Michal's project will explore the creation of beer in microgravity. The project was one of eleven student proposals that were selected to be aboard SpaceX-3 that launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in December of 2013.

His innovative project is currently being executed at the International Space Station by astronauts who are closely following the direction of the young scientist himself. Simultaneously, Michal is conducting the same experiment on the ground to see what differences may arise. We are rooting for the success of Michal's experiment and are certain that it will have pivotal, lasting effects on the evolution of space research.

Michal serves as role model to young scientists. His early dedication and determination to study science and technology is a testament to the American dream and I am proud to represent him in Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Michal Bodzianowski for his achievement of winning the "Student Spaceflight Experiments Program" and successfully launching his experiment into space.

HONORING HOUSTON JEWELRY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Houston Jewelry, a Houston family-owned and operated business since 1866, which has specialized in diamonds and fine jewelry since 1953. A true "Texas Treasure," this jewelry store can trace its history all the way back to the family's general store on Main Street. The Donsky-Solomon family is now in its fifth generation of active management of the business.

The history of this family store mirrors that of Texas itself. What started out as a frontier general store in the young, burgeoning town of Houston, grew and matured to become one of "America's Best Couture Jewelers" and a multiple winner of the Better Business Bureau of Houston's Award for Excellence. Like the city of Houston, from humble beginnings, the store owned by the Donsky-Solomon family has now earned national and international recognition. From the sale of staple and fancy dry goods to fine jewelry through catalog and online sales, each generation has enhanced the business it inherited. Weathering storms, economic busts, and national depressions, Houston Jewelry has been a steadfast testament to the power of determination, innovation, and family bonds. Their contributions to Houston are unquestioned, and I wish them continued success.

FAREWELL REMARKS FOR AMBASSADOR
TATOU MARKARIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Ambassador Tatoul Markarian for his service as the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States.

A distinguished diplomat, the Ambassador has a long career in public service, having represented the people of Armenia both at home and around the world. Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations and as Ambassador to the Mexican States. Additionally, he served previously from 1994–1999 as the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Armenian Embassy in Washington.

Before entering the Armenian Foreign Service, Ambassador Markarian served in the newly-independent Armenia's legislative and executive branches.

I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish together while Ambassador Markarian has been stationed in Washington for the last nine years. Together, we have fought together for Congressional Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and foreign aid assistance to both the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia. As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I have had the honor of working

closely on these issues for more than twenty years.

Today, the U.S.-Armenian relationship remains critically important. Armenia has been a crucial ally in a strategic region of the world by extending robust support for the U.S.-led peacekeeping deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo. Additionally, they have cooperated with the United States on a broad range of regional and security challenges. This relationship has been stewarded and advanced by Ambassador Markarian during his time in Washington.

Ambassador Markarian has dedicated his life's work to our shared goals and the people of Armenia. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to him for his service here in the United States and offer both him and his family the best of luck as they move forward on to their next diplomatic posting.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA, AS A
PURPLE HEART CITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on this, the eve of the anniversary of American Independence, it is fitting that we recognize not only the role of the founders in freedom's birthplace, Philadelphia, but that we salute those who have, ever since that declaration of freedom in 1776, fought in battle after battle and in war after war to secure our freedoms. On that day of days celebrating America's freedoms, like all days when freedom reigns, we should honor those who have so selflessly served and made such extraordinary personal sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, more than a year before independence was declared, General George Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. His leadership was born of our War for Independence, and, to this day, General Washington remains a revered figure for the soldier in the field. And for so many reasons, the General still warmly resides in America's hearts and minds. Among our Nation's highest honors stands one enjoying almost universal recognition and holding a distinguished reverence by those both inside and outside the ranks of our dedicated military services. Its pedigree stretches back to the legendary commitment General Washington had made to his troops.

Above all, the Purple Heart symbolizes the sacrifice made freely for this country, given for each of us and for future generations. Here in our Nation's Capital on the office wall of West Virginia's Third Congressional District hangs one of my most cherished recognitions, a citation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America recognizing my service to the Order. Each year, I am honored to welcome West Virginia members of the Order to my office and to discuss with them issues of importance.

Many times I have had the high honor of presenting the Purple Heart to my fellow West Virginians. Without exception, they are as humble in accepting this award as they were meritorious in their actions for which it was granted. Here, Mr. Speaker, is found the true heart of the American character.